

APPENDIX 2Clean copies of the amended claims:

5 1. An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:

an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to digital audio data;

10 a playback/recording processing section having a compression section which compresses said digital audio data and stores into a RAM said compressed digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data, and having an expansion section which decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM based on the attribution data;

15 an audio output processing section, which receives decompressed digital audio data, converts said decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;

an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital audio data into an external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital audio data from said external recording medium, and stores said readout data into said RAM.

20 2. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface circuit section, which transfers digital audio data and attribution data to an external apparatus from said external recording medium, and which receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data to said external recording medium.

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4. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:

a) an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data,

b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,

30 c) an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus, and

d) an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus.

5 5. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:

a) an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data,
b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
c) an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus, and

10 d) an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from digital audio data received from said external apparatus.